

News Release

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission



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NJMC Marks Arbor Day with Trees for Urban Forest

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today continued its tradition of celebrating Arbor Day by presenting trees to the mayors of the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities through the Community Tree Planting Program.

“Every bit of green space in a municipality makes a difference to residents looking out their front windows or strolling along the sidewalk, and the merchants making their livelihoods downtown,” said NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin, also Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. “We are proud to celebrate Arbor Day in the Meadowlands by supporting residents with green infrastructure that will last generations.”

Trees will be distributed this week, culminating on Arbor Day, April 28. This year, the NJMC is providing 130 Thornless Honeylocust (*Gledista triancanthos*) trees to the 14 Meadowlands Municipalities.

Thornless Honeylocust, often planted in urban and residential settings, is a shade tree that provides protection from wind and is a natural buffer from noise and traffic. This species can be found from the Gulf of Mexico to New England and grows at a rate of two to two-and-a-half feet a year for the first 20 years. It can live to be more than 100 years old and lives in a range of soils, temperatures and weather conditions.

Thornless Honeylocusts produce fragrant green and yellow flowers throughout the spring and summer and long, leathery pods in the fall. The pods have become a favorite of professional and amateur florists.

“This program offers a great chance to reach out and improve the quality of life for Meadowlands residents,” said NJMC Commissioner Leonard Kaiser. “Whether by sprucing up a streetscape, holding back soil, or improving air quality, each tree planted today has a positive impact on tomorrow.”

The NJMC has been providing trees to District municipalities for the past four years, including American Basswood trees last year, Green Ash trees in 2004, and a variety of species in 2003. A different tree species is chosen each year to prevent monoculture, reduce disease and help towns diversify public landscaping.

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